

Utah Board of Juvenile Justice Minutes

Committee	Utah Board of Juvenile Justice
Date	Thursday, February 16, 2012
Time	8am – 9:30 a.m.
Location	NeighborWorks Salt Lake Homeownership Center, 625 W Girard St., Salt Lake City, Utah
Members Present	Pat Berckman, Adam Cohen, Karen Crompton, Patrick Garcia, Maria Garciaz, Gini Highfield, Max Jackson, Spencer Larsen, James Marchel, Judge James Michie, Van Nguyen, Troy Rawlings, Shirlee Silversmith, Rachael Skidmore, Pam Vickrey
Members Excused	Charri Brummer
Members Absent	Craig Dearden, Princess Gutierrez, Kaisa Kinikini
Staff	Reg Garff, Jo Lynn Kruse, Cuong Nguyen, Visitors: Donovan Bergstrom, Susan Burke, Scott Jackson
Agenda Item	Welcome and Chair's Report
Notes	<p>Adam Cohen called the meeting to order.</p> <p>Maria Garciaz spoke about the work that is done by Neighborworks Salt Lake. Rachael Skidmore briefly discussed their youth program.</p> <p>Adam recognized Maria Garciaz and Max Jackson for eight years of service to UBJJ.</p> <p>Gini Highfield made the motion to approve the January meeting minutes with a correction. Under the legislative section, change Division of Human Services to Department of Human Services. Maria Garciaz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.</p>
Agenda Item	Committee and Other Reports (tape 10:19)
Notes	<p>Youth Committee/Do the Write Thing – Spencer reported that we received 1,414 essays this year from 26 schools, and 19 school districts, and 39 teachers participating. It's exciting to see classroom discussions increase each year. Nearly 3,100 youth participated in classroom discussions about youth violence this year. Friday, Jan. 27, was set aside to organize and number the essays. Last weekend Spencer attended the DTWT Chair's meeting in Las Vegas. The focus of the meeting was the data pool taken from essays received. "The media in general" drew the largest response from essay writers as to the cause of youth violence. The top 90 Utah essays will be scored by the Board beginning March 6 with a deadline of March 15, the next UBJJ meeting. The awards luncheon is tentatively planned for May 3.</p> <p>Reg noted that he received a \$5,000 donation from the Beesley Foundation for DTWT.</p> <p>DMC Committee – (tape 23:39) Pat Berckman spoke briefly about Utah's Community Strategic and Planning Project (CASP) grant which requires the DMC Subcommittee to work at local level. Work now begins on how to develop a local DMC Subcommittee. This will require DMC members working with local leaders and stakeholders to initiate the DMC effort. Raechel Lizon has joined the subcommittee and will travel to D.C. for training along with Reg and Cuong. Assessment research continues, with West Jordan Police agreeing to participate. Cuong still awaits a response from the Provo Police Department.</p> <p>Cuong noted that the diversion study is complete and presentations to stakeholders continue. Last week presentations were made to probation chiefs and the Utah Board of Juvenile Judges. Judge Lindsey and the new Education Director asked to review the community relations curriculum.</p> <p>In general, the focus for the next three years will be completing the DMC assessment at arrest and referral points of contact (2012), and implementation of the intervention phase (2013 and 2014) of the DMC model.</p>

Agenda Item	Review 2012 Legislation (tape 30:54)
Notes	<p>The following legislation was discussed:</p> <p>Juvenile Competency Bill HB393 – Sponsored by Rep. McIff</p> <p>The bill closely follows the draft that was discussed in last month's meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of this legislation. Some feel it is bad legislation and should not go ahead until modified. Others feel that the bill, even though not perfect, should go forward because there is absolutely nothing in statute at the present. Judge Michie made the motion to give priority support to HB393. Troy Rawlings seconded the motion, which passed with two members (Pam Vickrey and James Marchel) voting no.</p> <p>Legislative issues will be posted on the CCJJ website, please review.</p>
Agenda Item	Gang Assessment (tape 55:53)
Notes	<p>Dr. Ben Peterson's <i>Utah Gang Assessment Report</i> is available in its entirety on the website www.gangfree.utah.gov.</p> <p>Data was drawn from surveys that ask youth directly about their experiences with gangs and related issues. Based on data from the last five SHARPS datasets, gang involvement appears to peak in grade 8. While gang involvement appears to fall off in grade 12, this could be influenced by increased school dropout rates by gang members.</p> <p>Dr. Peterson discussed the following tables and graphs for grades 6 through 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Reported Gang Involvement percentages • Factors Related to Gang Involvement and Interest in Joining a Gang (2009 & 2011 surveys) • Individual Risk/Protective Factors by Category • Gang Involvement, Interest in Joining a Gang, and Antisocial Outcomes (2009 Survey) • Attributed Reasons for Gang Involvement (2011 survey) <p>The following six reasons for joining gangs were assessed by asking kids the question, "Why do you think kids join gangs"?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belonging: to feel like they belong to a group, accepted by others 2. Security: for protection and to feel safe, so they won't get bullied 3. Certainty: to feel sure about themselves and others, give their lives meaning 4. Status: for respect, to feel like somebody important, better than other kids 5. Excitement: to do exciting things, have fun and thrills 6. Money/Stuff: to make money, to get stuff they wouldn't be able to get on their own <p>Dr. Peterson concluded his presentation by stating that results of the study show that there is some level of gang presence in most parts of the state. Knowing the levels of gang involvement and interest in joining gangs can be especially useful to prevention and intervention efforts. If prevention/intervention efforts are able to target youth most at risk, provide established cognitive-behavioral prevention and intervention programs, and redirect them toward other avenues that would serve similar functions to what they are looking for in a gang, then more progress can be made in decreasing the number of gang members and associated problem in our schools and on our streets.</p>
Agenda Item	Juvenile Justice Specialist Report (tape 1:21)
Notes	<p>Budget Update – The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant state allocation has been cut to \$293,000. This is a 39% reduction from last year. Reg will send out allocation amounts for the other grants (via email) as they come forward.</p> <p>Board Vacancies – Nindy Le has applied for youth membership and Scott Jackson has applied to fill Max's position. Judge Michie made the motion to approve Nindy Le, Scott Jackson and Donovan Bergstrom's (New JJS representative) membership. Karen Crompton seconded the motion which passed unanimously.</p>
Next Meeting	The next meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m., Thursday, March 15, 2012, Utah State Capitol Complex, Senate Bldg., Copper Room